

*U.S. Patent Application 10/781,172
Response of February 23, 2006*

REMARKS

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges that the Examiner has found after searching the prior art that the subject matter of claim 2 is patentable.

Applicant responds to the Action, indexing to the paragraphs as numbered by the Examiner.

Pars. 1-2 of the Action: As requested by the Examiner, applicant has amended the abstract to substitute the word *includes* for the word *comprises*. Applicant submits that the two words are equivalent.

Par. 3 of the Action: As requested by the Examiner, applicant has amended two paragraphs in the specification to provide antecedent basis for subject matter in claims 3, 5, 9, and 10. Applicant hereby avers that no new matter has been entered into the application, inasmuch as corresponding recitations appear in the application as filed, namely the claims.

Pars. 4-5 of the Action: Applicant has removed the phrase "accordion-like" from claim 4. Applicant submits that the claim as amended is without ambiguity.

Pars. 6-9 of the Action: Claim 2 has been canceled and Claim 1 amended to include the limitation of the canceled claim 2. Applicant submits that the remaining claims of the application, 3-13, dependent directly or indirectly upon claim 1 as amended herein, recite subject matter patentable over and above the references cited by the Examiner in the Action.

Par. 10 of the Action: Applicant notes that the instant application currently names and has always named only one inventor, Angelo J. Cassette. Angelo J. Cassette is the sole owner of the inventive material of claims 1-13 as amended herein, and was the sole owner of the inventive material of claims 1-13 as originally filed. Applicant respectfully points out as a possible source of the discrepancy that the Examiner issued concurrently with the instant Office Action, an office action for U.S. Patent Application 10/781,331, wherein Angelo Cassette was named as a joint inventor with Steven Morocco.

Par. 11 of the Action: By this amendment, applicant responds to the Examiner's objection to claim 2 as being dependent upon rejected base claim 1. Claim 2 has been canceled and Claim 1 amended to include the limitation of the canceled claim 2.

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Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review

On July 19, 2004, applicant submitted three sheets of formal drawings, correcting defects in the character of lines, numbers, and letters of the original filed sheets 1-3.

Applicant believes this amendment fully addresses the Examiner's rejections and objections in the Action mailed October 26, 2005, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance. Any questions or comments should be directed to the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted:

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